



ADVOCACY SEMINAR/EVENT

POST 2015 FRAMEWORK ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT AND MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

11-12 May 2015
Cornell Worker Institute
16 East 34th Street
New York, New York

13 May 2015
Delegate's Dining Room
UN Headquarters
New York, New York

SEMINAR REPORT

11 May 2015: Post 2015 Sustainable Development Intergovernmental Negotiations

Opening Session and participant presentations

Wellington Chibebe, ITUC

Michèle Auga, FES

Seminar Objective: getting insights on both processes but most of all lobbying decision makers. Indeed for first time we have organised an 'advocacy oriented' seminar giving participants the opportunity to liaise directly with governments' representatives taking part to the negotiations in New York and with the co-chairs of the two processes. We thank FES and the ILO for their support and collaboration;

Agenda presentation: on both days we will start with 'framing discussion' sessions with the presence of the external guests who will help us in getting the political flavour of the processes. 'Strategic discussion' sessions will follow tackling specific contents and providing insights and updates on the current negotiations path. Finally we will have the pleasure of having with us the co-facilitators of both SDGs and FFD who are steering the processes. This should be seen as an opportunity to get vocal on our trade union key priorities. The culminating activity on Wednesday during the breakfast meeting will foresee an interactive dialogue with UN member states where we could bring forward our trade union political key messages.

Overview of Intergovernmental Negotiation

Nikhil Seth, Director, Sustainable Development Division (UN-DESA)

Main points discussed:

- The approach to development has evolved during the last decades: the first model was grounded on concessionality based on southern commitments. Then in the 90' through lots of summits on social development we achieved the MDGs goal/target structure;
 - New process with SDGs: the SDGs removed the qualitative deficit of the MDGs (North/South paradigm; introduced economic and environment issues, as well as, peace justice and governance). First time that we are getting something right: the principles of "integration", "universality" and "transformation" are at the basis of the SDGs to face global public goods and inequality challenges;
 - Where are we in the process now? There are three main blocks: 1) DECLARATION political statement of intents enshrining political commitments (draft end of this month); 2) GOALS and TARGETS an integrated matrix of
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actions. Proposals have been raised for reducing the number of goals and targets: but this is not the case anymore. Complexity is inherent you cannot simplify development; 3) MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION deeply interlinked with FFD and climate processes. Climate is concerned with the issue for resources required for mitigation and adaptation (cutting emissions) and monitoring commitments. The SDGs show how to get there in realising decarbonisation; 4) REVIEW and IMPLEMENTATION based on universality and multi-stakeholders engagement. National ownership is crucial for implementation and multi-stakeholder partnerships should be mirrored at national level: many countries have already asked help to make institutional changes in order to comply with monitoring and reporting (Togo, Costa Rica, Honduras etc.)

- The High Level Political Forum will be the apex for global monitoring;
- Trade Unions should keep the focus on: income inequality (minimum wages) asking for setting commitments at the national level; Social protection and Employment policies.

Jane Stewart, Director, New York Office (ILO)

Main points discussed:

- The ILO made decent work being embraced by the UN as a right based concept (i.e. group of friends of decent work). Decent Work is mentioned in the main principles of the current FFD zero draft and we have to support social dialogue as a means of implementation in both SDGs and FfD agendas;
- The current SDGs framework, being based on the three dimensions of sustainable development and on universality, cannot allow for a “pick and choose approach”. Therefore, the global development agenda presupposes a thorough integration of the UN agencies work, deeply connecting the ILO to the UN development system (ECOSOC integration segment: linking decent work to all the SDGs pillars). Integration is also crucial at national level when it comes to monitoring and implementation, and tripartism should be a model to replicate at national level;
- The ILO will need to reflect on how to link up to the HLPF and the Governing Body should do that. Mostly when it comes to monitoring and review (indicators). Regarding the latter, the ILO is currently engaged with statistical commission of the UN.

Orienting Labour in the Negotiations

Strategic objectives for Labour, Vinicius Pinheiro (ILO) – see ppt

Presentation of Trade Union messages, Matt Simonds (ITUC)

Main points discussed:

- ILO proposals on indicators that could speak to different targets (see slide) i.e. collective bargaining (implementation of global jobs pact) and freedom of association, violence against trade unionists (freedom of speech and media) etc. We should reach out to the national chief statisticians;
- Position “ILO global report” to feed under the SDGs monitoring - ILO as thematic reviewer. Thematic revision: clustering targets for periodic review feeding into HLPF. This could be done in the context of the International Labour Conference;
- At national level: within national multi-stakeholders monitoring process (for ex. national commissions) it is crucial that social partners are included in these commissions;
- Next steps:
 - Declaration: getting international labour standards and decent work in the text
 - Preserve current goals and targets
 - Monitoring and follow up: position ILO in the SDGs monitoring
 - ILO preparedness plan: regional /national action push governments to start planning



Presentation Co-Facilitators and Key Negotiators of Post 2015 process

Perspective of Co-Facilitator, Ambassador David Donoghue (Ireland)

Main points discussed:

- The indicators will be developed by governments at national level. Consultation with CSOs will be crucial for the credibility of indicators (data should be reliable);
- The new framework will be voluntary (it would be not realistic to think about a binding framework - who will be the court that would judge?). Each target is connected to international agreements but ultimately voluntary. The way would be a 'peer pressure system' so politically and morally binding. The issue on accountability is where we put the focus, at what level. Accountability at national level is sure (governments are accountable to their citizens), but what about the global/multilateral level?
- How to monitor the implementation of the new goals? There is much deeper sense to start with implementation, much more than for the MDGs. National level is key (national commissions) but what about global level? What kind of balance do we strike for accountability at national and global level? How intrusive should we be at global level (many states are concerned by a heavy global reporting mechanisms)? The model/arrangement could be the one of 'Universal Periodic Review' at the HLPF.

Perspective Key Negotiator, Sergio Rodrigues dos Santos, Minister Plenipotentiary (Brazil)

Main points discussed:

- One of the political hurdles in the process was to preserve the integrity of the SDGs goals and targets but now it is settled;
- Indicators: the oversight of member states on the work of the UN statistical commission is crucial to ensure political viability and ambition. In particular, indicators do not have to 'interpret' the goals;
- The agenda needs to be strengthened, as well as, political commitments. It is for the first time that such a collective effort is made and it is important that everybody feels part of this (this was not the case for the MDGs);
- MOI: they need to be mainstreamed along the goals (opposite approach to the former MDGs 8). The agenda should be 'enforced' but how to go about that if it is not legally binding? CSOs and labour have a great role in pushing for implementation. MOI should be dealt in Addis also for the SDGs, but the G77 objects this as MOI are not only about financial resources;
- The principle of 'common but differentiated responsibilities-CBDR' should be applied to all the three dimensions of SDGs (South north dichotomy is still there);
- Accountability of private sector should be rights based.

Financing for Development – the road to Addis

Perspective Co-Facilitator on Financing for Development, Ambassador George Talbot (Guyana)

- The draft outcome reflects a balanced approach and many compromises, and this will continue to be the case as the process of drafting an outcome document
- We tried to adopt a balanced approach between the need to ensure an enabling environment for the private sector initiatives and at the same time ensuring regulating frameworks and responsibilities of the states. We need to maximise the role of the state but the state cannot do everything. We need a behaviour change of the private sector;
- Tax evasion is clearly dealt in the document: including the proposal for an international body on tax;
- PPPs will be a vehicle promoted in the Addis Outcome and the important point is that we should learn from experience, good and bad



- The post 2015 is an ambitious agenda and the approach and context for FfD should rightly be a concern for trade unions. We have a Common objective to improve the life of people in every corner of the globe. For people to sustain livelihood and enhance their lives, hence the interaction between environment and humanity.
- More often when we talk of development, the private sector wants to be the leaders or takes the credit. But development of the people should not be sub-contracted. The state must play that central role with assistance from the private sector.
- It's hard to go wrong when social dialogue is placed on the fore front of trade union dealings in address the plight of workers and the down trodden.
- After all said and done, we can't allow whoever is financing the development to be given an open end. There has to be some element of accountability.
- Addis faces a challenge because it's not a pledging conference. One does not expect to hear countries make promises. Success will be viewed based on credibility and adequate response.
- Costing the agenda will depend on lots of items. One cannot cost it with precision and have a credible costing.
- To address the SDG and Post 2015, resources need to be mobilized both domestically and privately. There are complex of actions in terms of policy, institutions, human resources, capacity building, data, etc.
- The drafted framework speaks to the question of decent work and productive livelihood. But the name "trade union" (which is the instrument) is not in the draft, even though the issues of interest to the trade unions are well captured in the draft.
- It's important to get the stand of Member States. The negotiations will be subject to the issues of concerns to the Member State. Thus the concerns of trade unions must be felt echoing on the floor.

Breakout in working groups and Report back

See final key messages document (see annex 1)

12 May 2015

Financing for Development – the road to Addis

Overview of Intergovernmental Negotiation

Barry Herman, Visiting Senior Fellow, Graduate Program in International Affairs, The New School and former senior staff in the UN Financing for Development Office

Main points discussed:

- Participation of different actors in Monterrey at a very diverse level (IFIs, WTO, Investors in emerging markets). Civil Society was to some extent involved. Implicit agreements in Monterrey, especially around ODA. There was serious political momentum at the time, and there was a sense of cooperation across different institutions to increase cooperation. Doha was another agreement but nice words with no implicit agreements;
- Current text, governments begging private investors to take up social issues. Some good ideas, but they are still very vague in implementation arrangements and follow up:
 - Taxation: proposal to make an intergovernmental committee, is it happening?
 - Business compliance, Ruggie principles – but where is it going to be convened?
 - Blended financing – private financing doing government work?
 - Principles for governing PPPs?
 - World Bank Safeguards
 - Global value chains – link between trade and FDI, it is all about rights of investors
 - Guidelines on responsible borrowing and lending – debt, not satisfactory



- Nothing on follow up: there is currently anything when it comes to Addis's follow up. A follow up committee could be positive although does not replace political willingness
- Under this framework most of the resources are allocated to support domestic resources mobilisation and infrastructure

Manuel Montes, Senior Advisor on Finance and Development, South Centre

Main points discussed:

- Universal common agenda under the three pillars of sustainable development – brings up some important issues for the labour movement: public financing, taxation to allow revenues for social services and infrastructure spending. FfD agenda should be very much focused on growth, employment and investment. However the current stand on private sector is not based on granting decent wages or on creating new jobs. Private sector is supposed to create jobs and provide decent wages – but private sector has instead invested other financial assets – instead of investing in wages have invested in lobbying to dismantle labour market institutions;
- Taxation: there is a friction between developing and developed states. The latter want to keep this issue at the OECD level so avoiding real cooperation to build up a shared tax base (intergovernmental committee). This results in a race to the bottom to attract foreign investment – forced countries to compete against each other and reduced tax bases – para 25 for intergovernmental tax committee (cooperate with each other and share tax base rather than undermine);
- Debt: the responsibility of creditors is crucial and should be advocated. Currently creditors get favourable interests rates when investing in countries at risk. But if debt is not repaid, they get anyways covered by the IMF;
- FDI: still great need for regulation (intellectual property rights);
- Trade: agriculture subsidies hampering trading to developing countries.

Orienting Labour in the Negotiations

Presentation ILO perspective, Vinicius Pinheiro (ILO) – see ppt

Presentation of Trade Union messages, Matt Simonds (ITUC)

Main points discussed:

The presentation focussed on the analysis of strengths and weaknesses of the current second version of the zero draft on FFD.

- Global framework: we need the acknowledgment of social partners (P9) and the reference to the ILO R202 and SPF global Fund (P11);
- DRM: we need to highlight the connection between DW with economic growth (P16);
- Domestic and international private finance: we need to insert the reference to the ILO MNE Declaration (global value chains), Youth employment strategy and SMEs transition to formal economy;
- Priorities for Action:
 - Macroeconomic policies for DW as primary source of domestic resource mobilisation
 - Social partners/social dialogue
 - ILO R202, SPF Fund
 - MNE declaration
 - Commitment to Youth Employment strategy
- Contrary to Monterrey the real focus now is on innovative financing (blending and PPPs) and DRM compared to trade and systemic issues. We need to highlight the role and responsibilities of the state in providing regulatory



frameworks and quality public services; we need to support social protection and the implementation of SPFs through a Social Protection Fund (especially to LDCs in terms of capacity building and technology support - not direct payments of schemes) to help in implementing R202; we need to advocate for business accountability mechanisms beyond voluntary approaches, and in this context social dialogue and collective bargaining should be taken on board.

Perspectives on FfD

Aldo Caliari, Director, Center of Concern

Main points discussed:

- Everything is still on the table. This is not actually a UN Conference it is an international conference – which includes BWIs, WTO, etc. – has major implications about what such a conference can do;
- Defining success: we need a narrative that accurately describes the world we are living;
- Intergovernmental focal point to follow up the commitments made in the conference – counterpart to FfD Office. Time within the HLPF to preserve the special characteristic of FfD and to discuss the issues
- Intergovernmental body on tax cooperation
- Triple bottom line for the private sector – controls on type of public support for the private sector
- Important paragraph on trade to review the most harmful clauses in trade treaties (ISDS)
- Reforming of special drawing rights in the IMF
- Debt sustainability mechanisms – responsible lending and borrowing principles for UNCTAD

Americo Beviglia Zampetti, Head of Section, Economic, Trade and Development (EU Delegation to UN)

Main points discussed:

- Agree on the new or renewed narrative on international cooperation is meant to take place – narrative of how to implement the agenda of the post 2015 will be a success. The work of the Addis conference should be really focused on implementing Post 2015 – not get side-tracked by the Financing for Development process in name, no point in having two parallel processes;
- Brings to centre new partnerships for the agenda – principles of shared responsibility and taking into account the individual capabilities of the different actors (Multi-actor approach – not just for governments);
- Particularly important stakeholder is the private sector and to reorient the way the private sector operates;
- International process, which remains aspirational process – cannot deliver binding commitments. Set of accountability mechanisms that can promote the implementation of voluntary commitments– through transparency and mutual learning;
- Not necessary to establish new bodies ECOSOC is already in place.
- Comprehensive approach to implementing the Post 2015 agenda – policy coherence

Breakout in working groups and Report Back

See final key messages document (see annex 1)

Closing

Wellington Chibebe, ITUC

- TUs have had a role in both post 2015 and FfD processes since the very beginning, as both have major implications for workers;
- Key political points for TUs:
 - Developmental role of the state
 - Decent work as a driver of economic development and social dialogue



- Private sector in development and its accountability
- Progressive taxation
- Social Protection and social protection floors
- We will be attending Addis conference with a TU delegation facilitated by the TUDCN. Coordination with ILO will be ensured.

13 May 2015

Moderated Breakfast Dialogue – Delegate’s Dining Room, UN Headquarters

The key messages (see annex 1) on **Post 2015** and on **Financing for Development** have been presented and an open discussion followed up with member states permanent missions’ delegates present.

Participation from Government Representatives

Ms. Antonella D'Agelosanto, Associate, Italy

H.E. Ms. Benedicte Frankinet, Ambassador, Belgium

Ms. Stephanie Kage, Counsellor, Germany

Mr. Sebastian Diluca, 1st secretary, Argentina

Mr. Sergio Rodrigues, Minister, Brazil

Mr. Americo Beviglia Zampetti, European Union delegation

Mr. Patricio Vacchieri, 1st Secretary, Chile



ANNEX 1

ADVOCACY SEMINAR

Post-2015 framework on Sustainable Development Goals, Financing for Development and Means of Implementation

New York, 11-13 May 2015

Presentation of key trade union messages

On SDGs

- We first welcome the engagement with the Major Groups structures to develop the Sustainable Development goals and believe this should set a precedent for processes going forward. Trade Unions are a unique constituency as representatives of workers with added value as development actors and as social partners, which include specific mechanisms for social dialogue on socio-economic policies at the national and international level.
- We also believe that the SDGs are undeniably a step forward compared to MDGs both in terms of the process to develop them and in their universality, scope and ambition, and in particular the focus on tackling major omissions of the MDGs like inequality and environmental sustainability
- Goals and targets should be rights-based, should not be biased, and should be measured both from a perspective of right-holders and duty-bearers. We highlight in particular that on the issue of Labour migration there is a need for greater emphasis on the human rights-based approach.
- The Decent Work Agenda, with its 4 pillars (workers' rights, social protection, employment and social dialogue), is a tool to fight both poverty and inequality; in the development of indicators, specific indicators on decent work (specifically on collective bargaining, wages and social dialogue) have to be integrated.
- We would add also that there needs to be a stronger focus on wages as a specific target and also in terms of means of implementation – poverty and inequality should be combatted in the first place by ensuring decent wages and raising minimum wages.
- We propose that the ILO supervisory mechanisms model is integrated into the implementation and monitoring processes of the Sustainable Development Agenda, especially at the High Level Political Forum. This also speaks to the importance of the ILO as a whole in delivering key goals for the labour movement in this agenda, and needs to be supported with appropriate resources.
- The declaration must have a clear reference to the Decent Work Agenda and international labour standards, which include fundamental principles and rights at work, social dialogue and collective bargaining. We also want to see references to the right to education, the right to water and the responsibility of the state to provide public services. We would welcome references to the Declaration on Social justice, tax justice, and the issue of conditionality of development. The right to development, systemic issues related to IFIs, debt renegotiation should all be acknowledged.
- The accountability mechanisms of the Sustainable Development Agenda must be based on clear principles, such as mutual accountability, democratic ownership and social dialogue. Global accountability is key to effect change at



national level. In this light we need commitments that go beyond voluntary in nature, and should be based on existing agreements as a minimum, for example the ILO Labour Standards.

- Civil society participation at national level to define national indicators must be ensured.
- Finally, the high-level political forum should have sufficient resources – both human and financial – to fulfil its role.

On Financing for Development (FfD)

- **We start by emphasizing the importance of the HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH.** For the labour movement this means delivering on the Decent Work Agenda in all its dimensions. Decent work is also a driver of economic and social development. We therefore see the value of a standalone paragraph referring to Decent Work as a means and an end in financing for development.
- There is broad support for social protection floors, but they need to be adequately financed and supported. We therefore call for the re-inclusion of reference to ILO Recommendation 202 and importantly ask for an agreement on the establishment of Global Fund for Social Protection to kick start universal implementation.
- We would also like the Addis Accord to explicitly recognize the role of the social partners and the social dialogue as both a means and an end when it comes to implementation.
- **It is also critical to emphasize the DEVELOPMENTAL ROLE OF THE STATE.** The State has the ultimate responsibility in delivering on development commitments, which include compliance by all actors, notably the private sector, with commitments and standards already agreed by the international community (including ILO core labour standards). The state is also responsible for ensuring fair redistribution and social inclusion. We would emphasize that the private sector is not a viable alternative to the state to provide quality public services. This agenda should not be a vehicle for privatization.
- **Further to this we suggest that Addis Outcome maintain that there be clear conditions for the private sector when speaking of development financing.**
 - The FfD document needs to include references to internationally recognized environmental, labour, and social safeguards-and their associated compliance mechanisms for all public and private international investments; including those adopted by the multilateral development banks.
 - There should be stronger and specific references to MNE compliance with International Standards, including through recognition of the ILO MNE Declaration.
 - With respect to PPPs there is little evidence, which suggests that PPPs contribute to sustainable development. We insist on a more balanced approach in terms of the provision of public services that are managed publicly.
 - We also raise concerns around different clauses within Trade Agreements, which instead of promoting the development of countries can undermine state sovereignty and violate labor rights.
 - Finally, Domestic Resource Mobilization is a powerful tool to redistribute wealth and promote equality. This has to be done through: progressive fiscal policies and tax justice, including effective taxation of MNE activities, and fighting tax evasion/havens and avoidance. Equally important are universal social protection, freedom of association, collective bargaining, and decent wages. We would also highlight our support for a Financial Transactions Tax.



ANNEX 2

List of Participants

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